



Brazil: studying droughts and floods

In northeastern Brazil, searing droughts often bring job losses, water shortages, and (when the rains finally come) floods and mudslides. Since 1994, IDRC has funded a project under which the University of Manitoba is helping Brazilian universities build a multidisciplinary research network that supports drought action by local, regional and national governments. Issues under study include desertification, soil erosion and the impact of out-migration.

Bolivia: putting the salt of life on the table

CIDA is helping Bolivia eradicate goitre, a cruelly disfiguring disease caused by a lack of iodine in the diet. The prevention is simple: a few grains of iodized salt in food. With its partners UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, CIDA is sponsoring a project to increase production of iodized salt, put it within reach of the poor and encourage its use. Canadian funding has enabled Bolivia to boost its production of iodized salt.

Cleaner air for the Hemisphere

Since 1996, CIDA has funded a project supporting Latin American countries' efforts to reduce air pollution caused by lead. Part of a wider World Bank program, the project helps governments and industry organize the phasing out of leaded gasoline. It also promotes harmonization of fuel specifications throughout the Hemisphere. The project has brought major environmental and health benefits, plus cheaper and more efficient fuel production.

Peru: economic and social research

CIDA and IDRC are supplying \$4.15 million in funding support to the Economic and Social Research Consortium (CIES), a think-tank that backs economic and social research in Peru. Studies so far have been conducted on fiscal and monetary policy. CIES is now gearing up for a research study of poverty in Peru. ●—

Visit the CIDA and IDRC Web sites:

www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

www.idrc.ca



Young Canadians reach out to the Americas

Over the next few months, a group of young Canadians will start six-month internships in the Americas through the Youth International Internship Program (YIIP) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

This year, the following Canadian organizations will receive funding from DFAIT to manage internships in the region: the Canadian Association for Community Living; the Canadian Centre on Minority Affairs; the Canadian Foundation for the Americas; the Centre Bolivar de Montréal; the Corporation Idéaux-Travail; Educ-Inter; and the Hispanic Development Council.

The aim is to enhance interns' international skills, provide assistance, and apply Canadian expertise and values to various issues. For example, the Canadian Centre on Minority Affairs will focus on business, trade, small enterprise development and various social issues in the Caribbean. The Centre Bolivar de Montréal, Corporation Idéaux-Travail, and Educ-Inter will focus on business and export development for Canadian companies, and on private-sector placements in Mexico, Panama and South America.

Again this year, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas will send some young people as interns to the OAS, with others going to the Pan American Health Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank. The Hispanic Development Council will strengthen relationships with community organizations in Central America, Cuba, Paraguay and Peru; it will also provide international experience to Canadian youth of Hispanic or Latin American backgrounds. The Canadian Association for Community Living will offer internships in Panama and Nicaragua in the area of human rights issues affecting persons with disabilities.

Élaine St-Onge did her internship at the Inter-American Children's Institute in Montevideo, an OAS agency. She says, "Doing an internship in children's rights gave me a chance to enhance my knowledge of the theme of child soldiers and also to get to know Uruguay better. This internship allowed me to vastly improve my Spanish. It was not always easy, but it was a very enriching experience." She is now working on children's issues in Montréal.

For more information on the Youth International Internship Program, visit its Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns) or call 1-800-559-2888 (toll-free from anywhere in Canada).